

## **REPORT – PUBLIC MEETING – ASHLAND**

**Facilitator: G. Combs**

**Present – 30**

Music and refreshments (chili with condiments, sugar cookies)

Good representation by various segments of the community; several local gov officials – no ethnic minorities in attendance.

Notes:

1. Lifelong education in the arts
  - Professional development is needed in pre-service training; through KAC roster artists, local artists, performing arts centers.
  - More resources for teachers – i.e. toolkits, packets, KPAN consultants
  - KAC Web site could be more supportive of teachers.
  - Need to make efforts toward getting career info to students – that there are ways of making money through the arts
  - Need to get more kids involved in doing the arts
  - Educators need to know what programs are available
  - Partnerships are important
  - Teachers need help in effective grant writing, using available technology
  - Paramount Arts Center great support to local educators
2. Efficient Statewide Delivery

(This discussion was skewed by the domination of one educator who was determined to talk about efficient delivery of arts education and Howard Gardner's different ways of learning.)

  - Delivery of true arts education vs metaknowledge of art
  - Assessment should be actual performance (based) and linked to core content
  - Always keep enjoyment and appreciation as part of the delivery system
3. Supportive Environment for Artists
  - Cultivate greater awareness of local history & art (use visual arts to connect with local history such as the steel industry in Raceland)
  - Expand Route 23 opportunities for artists
  - Establish incentives on the state level for mentor programs
  - Develop industrial design marked
  - Create a job training program/apprenticeships
4. Role of the Arts
  - Arts programming required through the schools
  - More public art
  - Connect visual and performing arts
  - Local governmental support for the arts (city and county)
  - Connect the arts to heritage through music and folk tales
  - Develop an artist colony supported by tax incentives
  - Develop a community orchestra
  - Parental involvement in arts projects
  - Involve business community in the arts through specific programs
5. Favorable Public Policy
  - Arts organizations need tools to assess the local economic impact of the Arts
  - Need public venue for discussion of the importance of the arts, starting with a place on the agenda of city council each week
  - Need educator workshops and public forum for discussion
  - Begin to educate kids at the youngest level (pre-K) to instill value of the arts
  - Develop arts programs for children both in and out of school

## Part 2 – Discussion of the role of the arts in bringing about 4 top goals

1. Safe and Caring Communities
  - Children can be reached through the arts
  - Art programs in at-risk hours (3:00 to midnight)
  - Collaborations with community partners and faith-based orgs
  - Provide outlet for shared family arts activities (Take-and-Make Kits that families can take home for at-home arts experiences)
  - More arts activities in neighborhoods makes a place safer and more secure
  - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Grants are great arts opportunities
  - Art Saturdays –learn from athletics –how they bring families together afterschool and week-ends
2. Family Success
  - The move from welfare to self-sufficiency – arts create jobs – cottage industries/crafters
  - Art allows children to achieve and understand success
  - Kids without family support have a harder time
  - Family resource centers providing opportunities (art in the park)
3. Quality Health Care
  - Laughter is healthy
  - Connect arts activities to wellness
  - Art therapy works
4. Lifelong Learning
  - Good example is Brass Band of the Tri-state
  - Residency programs in senior centers and nursing homes (like other KAC Programs)
  - Intergenerational mentoring/partnerships
  - Experiential activities for older citizens
  - 3 Arts Club – has been around since the '20's – mature women make art happen